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EXAMINER	
VIG, NARESH	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3629	

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/463,225	SCHWARTZ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Naresh Vig	3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 July 2003* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

This is in reference to response received on 21 July 2003 to the office action mailed on 17 April 2003. There are 20 claims, claims 1 – 20 pending for examination.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1, 2, 5, 9 – 11, 15 – 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. US Patent 6,081,795 hereinafter known as Ryan in view of Kara US Patent 5,822,739 and in further view of document labeled "Hauppauge

WinCast/TV Card" hereinafter known as Amato, an article "Toshiba Introduces Home PC Vision Connect For Easy Connection To a TV" hereinafter known as Toshiba and Kohorn US Patent 5,128,752.

Regarding claims 1, 2 and 17, Ryan discloses system and method which includes a plurality of meter printers operatively connected as part of a metering network and operating as client meter printers on the meter printer network. At least one postal security device (PSD) is coupled to at least one of the client meter printers (local client meter printer). The local client meter printer (e.g. host) functions as a meter server and the remote client meter printer functions as a meter client (e.g. customers) on the postage metering network.

Ryan customer station comprises processor and printhead (printer) [Fig.3]. Ryan does not disclose that the client station to be a set-top box, neither does Ryan disclose the customer station to be a desktop box. Official notice it taken that it one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to put the box on top of some device and call it a set-top box. Kara discloses a system and method for remote postage metering of postage indicia, including demanding a desired postage amount and subsequently printing the postage indicia onto a piece of mail [abstract]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ryan as taught by Kara to make the customer station portable by using a device like a personal computer which can be a set-top box to save on floor space. Ryan does not disclose to print labels. Kara discloses the postage can be printed on an

envelope, label or letter through a printer or special purpose label maker coupled to the first PC [col. 6, lines 7 – 10]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to print the postage on a label to be able to handle the mail pieces of different shapes and sizes. Ryan does not teach set-top box communicatively coupled with the television. Amato discloses to purchase a WinCast/TV card and communicatively coupled the personal computer (set-top box) to the television. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ryan in view of Kara as taught by Amato and add a TV card in the personal computer to watch the television programming using the signals received through the settop box. Neither Ryan, Kara nor Amato disclose a remote controller. Official notice it taken that it is known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that remote controlled Televisions and set-top boxes were commercially available. Toshiba discloses a set-top box communicatively coupled with a remote controller. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ryan in view of Kara and further in view of Amato as taught by Toshiba to allow the user to remotely access the device from anywhere in the room.

Ryan discloses host and customer station communicatively coupled;

Ryan does not disclose placing orders with the remote controller. Official notice it taken that it is known at the time of invention to one of ordinary skill in the art placing order for a product (e.g. pay-per-view event) using a remote controller was

commercially available. For example, a user can place an order for a pay-per-view movie.

Ryan does not disclose sending sending to the host a first message (customer order) requesting a postal indicium (product) and identifying the customer station responsive to the first message (customer order) generation of information (product) to be transmitted, and presenting the product on the presentation device. Official notice it taken that it is known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that when a customer places an order for a pay-per-view product, message is passed to the host, processed, and the product is transmitted to the device from where the order was placed, and presented on the presented on the presentation device to automate the creation and delivery of the product. Kara discloses that a user inputs certain necessary information, as well as additional desired information, into a local processor-based system. The local system then assembles a postage demand in suitable format and transmits the same to a remote postage metering device. The remote postage metering device then verifies the demand for authority to demand and valid funding. Upon verification, the remote postage meter assembles a data packet representing an authorized postage indicia. The data packet is transmitted to the local system for printing [abstract]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to transmit the request to the host, and present the response the requester to automate the creation and delivery of product.

Ryan discloses to have non-volatile memory [Fig. 3]. Ryan does not disclose making record of postage value. Kara discloses that upon making demands for postage,

costs of the transaction are deducted from the user's debit account, and, discloses step of storing account balances. Official notice it taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that Kara stores the accounting information on a non-volatile medium like a floppy disk, hard-disk, NVRAM etc. to ensure that the accounting information is not list when there is a power failure. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make records of postage dispensed to properly bill or charge the customer.

Ryan does not disclose web television. However, Ryan discloses that modems or internet connections for accessing the Data Center are located in the Meter Server. In alternate embodiments, the modem may be located in the PSD or the Client module (or another computer on the network) and the Internet connection may be in the Client module [col. 2, lines 32 – 37]. Ryan in view of Kara and modified as taught by Kara can receive web television information streamed / broadcasted over the internet and display over the television (web television). Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made that with internet connectivity in Ryan, web television information can be received to take advantage of the television programs available over the internet which may not be available to the user in their local areas.

Ryan does not disclose that a product can be created (printed) with the information provided from a remote location over a television network. Kohorn discloses system and method where a information received over the computer network can be

printed to create a product which can be used by the user (coupon). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to create a product at a remote location by providing the information on a television network to sell products over already installed network infrastructure and reach large pool of consumers (TV viewers).

Regarding claim 5, both Ryan [Fig. 1] and Kara [Fig. 1] disclose host system is remotely located from the customer station.

Regarding claim 9, Ryan does not disclose a weighing scale that is coupled to the set-top box for communicating the mass information to the host. Kara discloses that a balance may be coupled to the first PC so that mail can be placed on the balance and the weight of the mail automatically entered into the Demand program for calculating the correct postage for that mail item [col. 5, lines 25 – 28]. Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to connect the weighing scale to the set-top box to be able to automate the calculation of postage to be applied to the mail piece.

Regarding claim 10, Ryan discloses that the postal security devices in the host are shared among the customers [Fig. 1].

Regarding claim 11, Ryan discloses host with accounting capability [Fig. 1].

Regarding claim 15, Ryan discloses internet communication in the client module [col. 2, lines 36 – 37].

Regarding claim 16, Ryan discloses plurality of postal security devices in postage metering system network. Ryan does not disclose communicating with plurality of delivery service providers. Official notice is taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that plurality of devices can be connected to a personal computer (set-top box), and, it is a business choice whether to work with a single of delivery service provider, or, work with plurality of service providers, and also, it is known at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art that delivery service providers have their own approvals and standards for authorizing postal security devices. Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to install postal security devices with a host to communicate with all the service providers the business has

relationship with, and save on capital expenses on installing the dedicated host for communication with each service provider.

Claims 6 – 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. US Patent 6,081,795 hereinafter known as Ryan in view of Kara US Patent 5,822,739 and in further view of document labeled "Hauppauge WinCast/TV Card" hereinafter known as Amato, an article "Toshiba Introduces Home PC Vision Connect For Easy Connection To a TV" hereinafter known as Toshiba, Kohorn US Patent 5,128,752 and Breault et al. US Patent 4,941,091 hereinafter known as Breault.

Regarding claim 6, Ryan does not disclose providing menu and data input. Official notice it taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that when a customer places an order for a product like pay-per-view movie using a remote controller, user is prompted to depress a key on the remote controller to acknowledge and accept the offer. Toshiba discloses to provide means and method for data input. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide means and method for data input to allow the user to acknowledge and accept the offer. Neither Ryan, Kara nor Toshiba disclose to provide menu for user interaction. Breault discloses system and method where a host system communicatively coupled to one or more operator

workstations. Each workstation may be further coupled to a postage dispensing device, such as a postage meter [abstract]. Breault disclose to provide plurality of illustrative display screen menus which may be displayed to an operator of the system during the operation of the system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the menu to the user to make the system interactive.

Regarding claim 7, neither Ryan, Kara nor Breault disclose identification code to include destination address and zip code. Kara discloses that its Demand program is able to automatically calculate the correct postage to place on a letter, parcel or label as a function of the class, zone and weight of the particular item to be mailed. Official notice it taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that it is a design choice to elect what information it requires to from its customers to provide information or product requested by the customer. For example, DC taxi cabs charges are based upon zones and the customer is charged based upon the destination address where they disembark the taxicab. Mail service providers require dimensions, weight and destination zip code to provide the postal charges. Additionally, it is known to one of ordinary skill in the art that US addresses comprise of street address and zip code. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ryan as taught by Kara to automatically calculate the postal charges.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. US Patent 6,081,795 hereinafter known as Ryan in view of Kara US Patent 5,822,739 and in further view of document labeled "Hauppauge WinCast/TV Card" hereinafter known as Amato, an article "Toshiba Introduces Home PC Vision Connect For Easy Connection To a TV" hereinafter known as Toshiba, Kohorn US Patent 5,128,752 and Merjanian US Patent 5,920,642.

Regarding claim 12, neither Ryan nor Kara disclose fingerprint reader. Mejanian (claiming priority on earlier date, see Related US Application Data) disclose a method for commerce through a set-top box in which fingerprint data is employed. The system includes in one housing both a fingerprint acquisition device and an account identification device. Signals representative of the fingerprint and the identified account are conveyed together from the housing to a remote location. The notarization system further includes a receiver which receives an authentication signal that confirms that the operator is authorized to charge a transaction against an account. Also disclosed is a combination set top box and a remote control, wherein the remote control includes a fingerprint reader. The remote control conveys in wireless manner a signal representative of the fingerprint to the set top box. The set top box stores a plurality of service level settings and preference settings. The set top box compares received fingerprint signals to stored fingerprint data for a match. The set top box further includes

means responsive to any matches to adjust the current setting of the service level or preference setting to a pre-selected service level or preference setting, respectively. The set top box maintains the current setting until a further fingerprint signal is obtained. Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use fingerprint reader for authentication to further protect the device from unauthorized use due to the stolen identification password / code.

Claims 13 – 14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. US Patent 6,081,795 hereinafter known as Ryan in view of Kara US Patent 5,822,739 and in further view of document labeled "Hauppauge WinCast/TV Card" hereinafter known as Amato, an article "Toshiba Introduces Home PC Vision Connect For Easy Connection To a TV" hereinafter known as Toshiba, Kohorn US Patent 5,128,752, Solondz et al. US Patent 5,602,742 hereinafter known as Solondz and Price Watch Corporation hereinafter known as PriceWatch.

Regarding claim 13, Ryan does not disclose to be communicatively linked to a plurality of delivery service providers. Solondz discloses system and method that enables the use of one of a plurality of carriers from any station in the network [abstract]. The system utilizes proprietary software placed on an integrated circuit chip (IC) to frank postage for any given country; purchase private courier postage; compare

rates of various courier services; optimize postage rates [col. 4, lines 11 – 16]. A communications interface enables the purchasing postage in bulk or on a limited basis postage through a clearing house 62 which, in turn, interfaces with various postal/carrier services 64, 66, and 68; with credit services 70; with debit card vendors 72 for credit services; and, with a national postal service 74 [col. 9, lines 46 – 51]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to be communicatively linked to plurality of service providers to purchase private courier postage; compare rates of various courier services; optimizing postage rates.

Ryan does not discloses to retrieve and transmit price information to the television display. Solondz does not discloses to retrieve the price for comparison. Official notice it taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that Solondz has to retrieve the price from plurality of carriers to be able to compare the prices from plurality of carriers. PriceWatch discloses system and method to find price on products. PriceWatch discloses that they obtain pricing information for websites (communicatively linked to providers), or data that is fed directly to us from the reseller (communicatively linked to the reseller) [page 2]. PriceWatch displays the prices to the user on their display device (television display). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display the price information to the user so they can find price on using the services of the delivery service provider.

Regarding claim 14, Ryan discloses plurality of postal security device in the postage metering system network [Fig. 1]. Ryan does not disclose postage security device associated with each of the plurality of delivery service providers. Official notice is taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that it is a business choice whether to work with a single of delivery service provider, or, work with plurality of service providers, and also, it is known at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art that delivery service providers have their own approvals and standards for authorizing postal security devices. Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to install postal security devices for all the service providers to be able to do business with them.

Claims 3 – 4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. US Patent 6,081,795 hereinafter known as Ryan in view of Kara US Patent 5,822,739 and in further view of document labeled "COMST*R SVD Owner's Manual" hereinafter known as ComStar.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Ryan discloses system and method which includes a plurality of meter printers operatively connected as part of a metering network and operating as client meter printers on the meter printer network. At least one postal

security device (PSD) is coupled to at least one of the client meter printers (local client meter printer). The local client meter printer (e.g. host) functions as a meter server and the remote client meter printer functions as a meter client (e.g. customers) on the postage metering network.

Ryan customer station comprises processor and printhead (printer) [Fig.3]. Ryan does not disclose that the client station to be a set-top box, neither does Ryan disclose the customer station to be a desktop box. Official notice it taken that it one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to put the box on top of some device and call it a set-top box. Kara discloses a system and method for remote postage metering of postage indicia, including demanding a desired postage amount and subsequently printing the postage indicia onto a piece of mail [abstract]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ryan as taught by Kara to make the customer station portable by using a device like a personal computer which can be a set-top box to save on floor space. Ryan does not disclose to print labels. Kara discloses the postage can be printed on an envelope, label or letter through a printer or special purpose label maker coupled to the first PC [col. 6, lines 7 – 10]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to print the postage on a label to be able to handle the mail pieces of different shapes and sizes. Ryan does not teach set-top box communicatively coupled with the fax machine. ComStar discloses system and method communicatively coupling fax with the personal computer [pages 9, 11]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify Ryan in view of Kara as taught by ComStar and add fax modem in the personal computer to use the same device to provide additional services.

Ryan discloses host and customer station communicatively coupled;

Ryan does not discloses printing faxes. ComStar discloses send/receive faxes. ComStar does not disclose to print faxes. Official notice it taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that business have used fax modems to receive faxes, and, used the printer attached to the personal computer (set-top box0 to print the received faxes. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ryan as taught by Kara and further in view of ComStar to add fax functionality to the personal computer to avoid the cost of purchasing additional device like fax machine

Ryan does not disclose sending sending to the host a first message (customer order) requesting a postal indicium (product) and identifying the customer station responsive to the first message (customer order) generation of information (product) to be transmitted, and presenting the product on the presentation device. Official notice it taken that it is known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that when a customer places an order for a pay-per-view product, message is passed to the host, processed, and the product is transmitted to the device from where the order was placed, and presented on the presented on the presentation device to automate the creation and delivery of the product. Kara discloses that a user inputs certain necessary information, as well as additional desired information, into a local processor-based system. The local system then assembles a postage demand in

suitable format and transmits the same to a remote postage metering device. The remote postage metering device then verifies the demand for authority to demand and valid funding. Upon verification, the remote postage meter assembles a data packet representing an authorized postage indicia. The data packet is transmitted to the local system for printing [abstract]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to transmit the request to the host, and present the response the requester to automate the creation and delivery of product.

Ryan discloses to have non-volatile memory [Fig. 3]. Ryan does not disclose making record of postage value. Kara discloses that upon making demands for postage, costs of the transaction are deducted from the user's debit account, and, discloses step of storing account balances. Official notice it taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that Kara stores the accounting information on a non-volatile medium like a floppy disk, hard-disk, NVRAM etc. to ensure that the accounting information is not list when there is a power failure. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make records of postage dispensed to properly bill or charge the customer.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. US Patent 6,081,795 hereinafter known as Ryan in view of Kara US Patent 5,822,739 and in further view of Kara US Patent 5,801,944 hereinafter known as Kara2.

Regarding claim 18, Ryan discloses accessing a host data center from a remote location via a communication link. Ryan does not disclose to produce cryptographically secure postal indicia. Kara discloses that advantages are realized by the inclusion of encrypted data within, or accompanying postage indicia printed as a result of the present invention [col. 3, lines 30 – 32]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made t to produce cryptographically secure postal indicia to identify rogue use of such postage indicia as well as both the metering and printing sites utilized with a particular postage indicia.

Neither Ryan nor Kara disclose to provide menus at the remote location for receiving information from the user. Kara2 discloses that at step 903, the customer will be provided with a menu of styles for the type of card that he has selected [col. 16, lines 21 – 23]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide menus to the user to make the system interactive.

Ryan discloses to request for postage [Fig. 5].

Ryan discloses to perform authentication and send data to the printer to print the indicium [Fig. 5].

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. US Patent 6,081,795 hereinafter known as Ryan in view of Kara US Patent 5,822,739 and in further view of Kara US Patent 5,801,944 hereinafter known as Kara2 and Solondz et al. US Patent 5,602,742 hereinafter known as Solondz and Price Watch Corporation hereinafter known as PriceWatch.

Regarding claim 19, Ryan does not disclose to be communicatively linked to a plurality of delivery service providers. Solondz discloses system and method that enables the use of one of a plurality of carriers from any station in the network [abstract]. The system utilizes proprietary software placed on an integrated circuit chip (IC) to frank postage for any given country; purchase private courier postage; compare rates of various courier services; optimize postage rates [col. 4, lines 11 – 16]. A communications interface enables the purchasing postage in bulk or on a limited basis postage through a clearing house 62 which, in turn, interfaces with various postal/carrier services 64, 66, and 68; with credit services 70; with debit card vendors 72 for credit services; and, with a national postal service 74 [col. 9, lines 46 – 51]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to be communicatively linked to plurality of service providers to purchase private courier postage; compare rates of various courier services; optimizing postage rates.

Ryan does not discloses to retrieve and transmit price information to the television display. Solondz does not discloses to retrieve the price for comparison. Official notice it taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that Solondz has to retrieve the price from plurality of carriers to be able to compare the prices from plurality of carriers. PriceWatch discloses system and method to find price on products (prices from plurality of resellers for the product of interest to the customer). PriceWatch discloses that they obtain pricing information from websites (communicatively linked to providers), or data that is fed directly to us from the reseller (communicatively linked to the reseller) [page 2]. PriceWatch displays the prices to the user on their display device (television display). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display the price information to the user so they can find price on using the services of the delivery service provider.

Neither Ryan, Solondz or PriceWatch disclose to solicit quotes from each delivery service provider and provide the quotes to the user. However, PriceWatch discloses that they obtain pricing information from websites, or data that is fed directly to us from the reseller (a manual process) [page 2]. Official notice it taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to automate the manual process of PriceWatch and automate the retrieval and update of pricing information to minimize errors due to manual process and save on personnel costs.

Claims 8 and 20 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. US Patent 6,081,795 hereinafter known as Ryan in view of Kara US Patent 5,822,739 and in further view of document labeled "Hauppauge WinCast/TV Card" hereinafter known as Amato, an article "Toshiba Introduces Home PC Vision Connect For Easy Connection To a TV" hereinafter known as Toshiba, Kohorn US Patent 5,128,752 and Kara US Patent 5,801,944 hereinafter known as Kara2.

Regarding claim 8, Ryan does not disclose to print labels. Kara discloses the postage can be printed on an envelope, label or letter through a printer or special purpose label maker coupled to the first PC [col. 6, lines 7 – 10]. Neither Ryan nor Kara disclose human readable identifier information printed on the label in addition to the indicia. Kara2 discloses human readable identifier information printed on the label in addition to the indicia [Fig. 16a – 16b]. Therefore it would have been obvious at the time invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Ryan in view of Kara as taught by Kara2 to automate the mail envelope information (To / From address, postage stamp etc.) printing process.

Regarding claim 20, Ryan discloses a host data center remotely located from at least one customer site, the host data center including at least one postal security

device adapted to generate postal indicia and adapted to be shared among customer sites.

Ryan does not disclose television based communication interface to allow cryptograhically secure postal indicia to be received from the host data center at the customer site. Kara discloses a system and method for remote postage metering of postage indicia, including demanding a desired postage amount and subsequently printing the postage indicia onto a piece of mail [abstract]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ryan as taught by Kara to make the customer station portable by using a device like a personal computer which can be a installed and used from a user's premises (customer site). Neither Ryan nor Kara discloses customer site communicatively coupled with the television. Amato discloses to purchase a WinCast/TV card and communicatively coupled the personal computer (set-top box) to the television. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ryan in view of Kara as taught by Amato and add a TV card in the personal computer to watch the television programming using the signals received through the settop box.

Ryan discloses printer. Ryan does not disclose to produce cryptographically secure postal indicia. Kara discloses that advantages are realized by the inclusion of encrypted data within, or accompanying postage indicia printed as a result of the present invention [col. 3, lines 30 – 32]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made t to produce cryptographically

secure postal indicia to identify rogue use of such postage indicia as well as both the metering and printing sites utilized with a particular postage indicia.

Neither Ryan, Kara nor Amato disclose to provide menus at the remote location for receiving information from the user. Kara2 discloses that at step 903, the customer will be provided with a menu of styles for the type of card that he has selected [col. 16, lines 21 – 23]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide menus to the user to make the system interactive.

Neither Ryan, Kara nor Amato disclose a remote controller to enter request. Official notice it taken that it is known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that remote controlled Televisions and set-top boxes were commercially available. Toshiba discloses a set-top box communicatively coupled with a remote controller. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ryan in view of Kara and further in view of Amato and Kara2 as taught by Toshiba to allow the user to remotely access the device from anywhere in the room.

Ryan discloses to perform authentication [Fig. 5]. Official notice it taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that Ryan system and method exchange (transmit and receive) necessary information to perform authentication.

Ryan discloses to send data to printer and printer prints the indicium [Fig. 5].

Ryan discloses to have accounting capability [Fig. 1], and also PSD performing accounting [Fig. 5].

Ryan does not disclose that a product can be created (printed) with the information provided from a remote location over a television network. Kohorn discloses system and method where a information received over the computer network can be printed to create a product which can be used by the user (coupon). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to create a product at a remote location by providing the information on a television network to sell products over already installed network infrastructure and reach large pool of consumers (TV viewers).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. Lee US Patent 5,687,689

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naresh Vig whose telephone number is 703.305.3372. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 - 5:00 (Alt Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703.308.2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.305.3900.

September 25, 2003
Naresh Vig

JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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